REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

- Amendments -

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended page(s), in which:

- Claim 1 is amended to better define the invention; and

By these amendments, claims 1 to 11 are pending. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicant further requests that the Abstract be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended pages.

Applicant further requests that pages 1, 2, 9, and 10 be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended pages to replace attorney docket numbers with U.S. Patent Application numbers.

Applicant further requests that Figure 1 be amended as indicated in the accompanying pages.

- Remarks -

Specification
The Abstract has been amended as requested by the Examiner to remove legal phraseology.

Pages 1, 2, 9, and 10 of the specification have further been amended to replace docket numbers with U.S. Patent Application Numbers and/or other official identification number.

Drawings
Figure 1 has been amended such that the Input Source illustrated in Figure 1 and the 4-plane Contone Buffer illustrated in Figure 30 no longer share the same reference numeral.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting
Applicant lodges herewith a terminal disclaimer in respect of U.S. Patent No. 7,002,664.

35 USC §101
Claim 3 is rejected under §101. Claim 3 is cancelled from the present application.

35 USC §112
Claim 1 is rejected under §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is appropriately amended to remove the phrase "in a manner". Applicant submits that this amendment overcomes the outstanding rejection.

35 USC §102(b)/§103(a)
Claim 1 is rejected under §103(a) over Enomoto et al. (US 5,974,401) in view of Wen (US 6,109,745).

Claim 1 is amended to better define the invention sought to be protected, and to distinguish over the combination of Enomoto et al. and Wen.

As amended, claim 1 recites the following steps:

- utilizing a digital photofinishing system that incorporates a digital processor, a printer coupled to the digital processor, and means for feeding plain paper to the printer from a roll of the plain paper
- providing the digital processor with digitised data from a source that is provided by a customer, and which is representative of a photographic image
- processing the data with the digital processor to generate a printer drive signal that is representative of the photographic image
- in response to the drive signal, effecting page-width printing of the photographic image on the plain paper as it is fed directly to the printer from the roll by the feeding means, and
- furnishing the printed plain paper image to the customer and charging the customer for the printing service.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Enomoto et al. and Wen fails to teach or suggest the method of amended claim 1.

Applicant particularly notes that neither Enomoto et al. nor Wen teaches or suggests a method of operating a photofinishing business in which a digital photofinishing system using plain paper is utilized for printing a photographic image. Moreover, neither reference teaches or suggests furnishing a printed plain paper image to the customer and charging the customer for the printing service.

Enomoto et al. specifically disclose using special paper, for example silver-salt colour photo paper and positive-to-positive type colour paper, when printing images.

Claims 2, and 4 to 11 are submitted to be novel and inventive over the combination of Enomoto et al. and Wen at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant looks forward to word of further official communication in due course.

Very respectfully,

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